

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Miss Georgia Mountain Fair

I've been out of commission for quite sometime. I'm back at work now, and I'm getting out to cover events.

On July 22, I covered Mountain Home Music and Crystal Gayle at Anderson Music Hall.

As my friends and I were leaving, I saw a familiar face, who welcomed me back to doing what I love to do - cover my community.

We talked a bit about Crystal Gayle, then the conversation turned to Marty Haggard, son of the legendary Merle Haggard.

She had to go back to work, so I had to end our conversation quickly.

I went back July 26 to cover Soco Creek out of Murphy, North Carolina (an excellent band), and Marty Haggard. The show was incredible, from both entertainers.

However, I saw that familiar face again, standing on stage, and welcoming the crowd to the Soco Creek opening for Marty Haggard.

It was here I learned that the familiar face had been crowned Miss Georgia Mountain Fair 2017. She also was named Miss Congeniality, and she claimed the talent competition.

After the show, I ran into the familiar face again.

Towns County's own Eryn Cochran is the familiar face. She is going to college at Young Harris, where she will continue her collegiate basketball career this fall.

I can't tell you how many stories that Jerry Kendall and I have written about Eryn during her outstanding high school career with the Lady Indians.

I don't mean to offend any Union County readers writing about a legendary Towns County basketball star. However, Eryn is a classic example of doing what you are meant to do.

She has the personality that makes her easy to communicate with - Eryn's goal is to become a physical therapist. Having dealt with many physical therapists over the last two years, I can tell you, she picked the right career.

She's not shy, after all, she is Miss Georgia Mountain Fair 2017, and she has no problem speaking in front of large crowds.

Straight Shooting
Charles Duncan



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Gift and Glory

"Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). Do you wonder what that looks like? Eric Liddell, the famous gold medalist in the 1924 Olympics, knew what that means.

Liddell was born in 1902 to Scottish missionaries in China. His athletic talent emerged in high school in England. He entered the University of Edinburgh in 1921. It was there he became known as "The Flying Scotsman" for his abilities on the track.

During his college years, the Glasgow Students' Evangelistic Union planned an evangelistic rally in a small coal mining town nearby. They reached out to Liddell to speak at their event. At first he agreed, but soon had second thoughts. He was comfortable on the track and in the classroom, but not behind a pulpit. As the day of the event approached, he received a letter from his sister Jenny, saying, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isa. 41:10). Liddell said, "Those words helped me make my decision and since then, I have endeavored to do the work of the Master."

Encouraged by the crowds and the results, he joined the Glasgow group, and began to speak in more rallies. Liddell said, "My whole life had been one of keeping out of public duties, but the leading of Christ seemed now to be in the opposite direction, and I shrank from going forward. At this time I finally decided to put it all on Christ - after all if He called me to do it, then He would have to supply the necessary power." God gifts and equips us to glorify Him.

The 1981 movie "Chariots of Fire" focused on Liddell's refusal to run on Sunday in the Paris Olympics. As he prepared for a different race, a trainer handed him a note: "It says in the Old Book, "Him that honours me, I will honour." (1 Sam. 2:30). He won the race pulling away, setting a new world record.

Liddell's gift was that he was fast; his heart's desire was to glorify God, and that carried him back to China as a missionary. He served the Chinese people and his fellow missionaries, even

All Things New
Wayne Fowler



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Commissioner's Questions

Noise Part II
Q. What is the next biggest problem related to noise in the county?

A. It is discharging a gun. Georgia laws give gun owners a lot of room, but you must realize with that also comes responsibility. Discharging your weapon in a reasonable manner, at a reasonable time and in a reasonable place is the total responsibility of the gun owner. Our law enforcement people go out to scenes often when irresponsible gun use is going on. They let the offending party know the problem and remind them that if they do not want the police coming to their home all the time, they must consider how and what they are doing is negatively impacting their neighbors. This has been very successful.

Q. If we have a neighbor causing a lot of noise, how should we handle it?

A. If you know your neighbor, a simple friendly visit often works. Not a confronting visit, but a nice pleasant visit. Let your neighbor know that the impact of their actions are negatively impacting your ability to enjoy your neighborhood and would they consider making some type of adjustment that works for both of you. You might be surprised at the results. However, if you already have a neighbor that you do not get along with, it is probably best to let law enforcement handle it.

Q. How much loud music are we supposed to endure?

A. Occasionally loud music is going to happen, whether it is coming from Meeks Park, retail venues, a wedding or other outdoor venues. Even Vogel State Park has outdoor music in the summer and if you have a cabin rented there, you are going to likely hear the music. However, most control time and volume. If someone is being unreasonable, our Sheriff's Office will pay them a visit and remind them of what is reasonable and what is not. Please do not call the Sheriff's Office or E-911 at the first sound. If it is a persistent problem over time, then it is appropriate to contact someone.

Q. Wouldn't a noise ordinance simply control any loud

Q & A from Union County Commissioner
Lamar Paris



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Anti-Drug Coalition

Facts About Workplace Substance Abuse

Substance abuse contributes to significant disruption in the nation's workplaces. The leading contributor to absenteeism, tardiness, and on-the-job injuries, the growing presence of drug and alcohol misuse in the United States is not just a factor in widespread domestic problems.

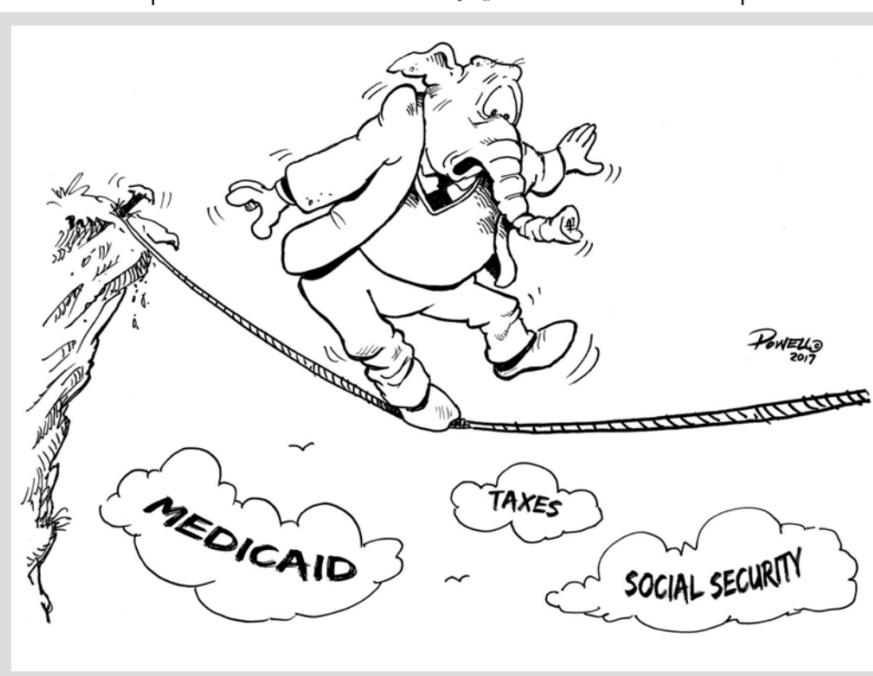
The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) reported that substance abuse in 2014 cost companies \$81 billion in lost productivity, turnover, negative workplace behavior, injury and liability and accidental deaths.

Eliminating substance abuse in the workplace raises morale and improves productivity and turnover.

According to NCADD, evidence exists that the presence of substance abusers in any workforce can have a severe negative impact on

The mission of the Union County Anti-Drug Coalition is to support an overall safe community by providing information, education and support services to children, families and community toward prevention of illegal substance abuse. Visit and Like our Facebook page for additional articles and videos.

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Business Breakouts

The Chamber provides FREE monthly programs, called Business Breakouts, to help business owners work on their business while they are working in their business. This training is just one of the many benefits of membership with the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce. No registration is required. Just show up and get ready to learn!

Blairsville-Union County Chamber
Regina Allison



The next Business Breakout is being held at the Union County Community Center on Wednesday Aug. 9th, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. This month's topic is growing your business with email and social media.

Many small businesses and organizations find themselves seeking the right strategies, tools and tactics to make their marketing efforts as effective as possible. But between Facebook and Twitter, email and mobile, deals, and whatever new social network is rolling out that month—

See Allison, page 5A

Letters to the Editor

Pothole Problems

Dear Editor,

I want to change something about the roads in Union County. Our Road Department does an overall good job. However, I would like to see one new requirement about our roads.

If any government crew, or private contractor tears up any road, it should be required that the damaged place on the road be patched to the condition it was before it was damaged.

There are many places in the road that was not repaired properly, leaving a rough spot, or a hole that causes large trucks and motorcycles problems - they hit these rough spots hard.

When anyone gets a permit to open a road, they should be informed about making the road as good as it was before, and that the Road Department would inspect the path to confirm the repair done right.

For me, as I leave Pat Colwell onto Jewell Mason, there are several rough patches that make me move into the other lane to avoid damaging my truck.

Please help with this situation.

Richard Howard,
Blairsville

Confused

Dear Editor,

I'm confused about the behavior of some of the people who place advertisements in your Service Directory.

I called one of the folks who advertise and I leave a message. No return call. Repeat, repeat, repeat...sometimes I eventually get a call back, sometimes not.

I call, leave message, service person calls back and makes an appointment and then fails to show up.

I call, leave message, service person calls back, makes appointment, shows up, says he/she will call soon with price for the work. I never hear from them again.

Granted, sometimes I have a very good experience, but too many times one of the above scenarios is what takes place.

Do these people just like seeing their name in print? I'm not the only person who has these unfortunate experiences, neighbors also complain about it.

Richard Russell,
Blairsville

The Eclipse

Emergency Management prepares for many things. We prepare for severe weather, natural disasters, man-made disasters, fires, accidents and major events that many have an impact on our community.

Asolareclipse is a new and unusual event that will soon impact our community. We, the Emergency Management Agency, and our community partners are preparing and planning for this event and so should you.

A solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and Earth and blocks all or part of the sun. This event can last up to about three hours, from beginning to end, as viewed from a given location. On Monday, Aug. 21, 2017, Union County will be one of the few Georgia counties that will experience this eclipse of the sun. The partial eclipse will start approximately 1 p.m. and will end approximately 4 p.m.

Union County will also experience a total solar eclipse, where for almost two minutes the sun will be completely blocked. This is called totality and will happen approximately at 2:35 p.m. According to Astronomy Magazine, "It's all about totality. Comparing a partial eclipse to a total eclipse is like comparing almost dying to dying. Only totality reveals the true celestial spectacle: the diamond ring, the Sun's glorious corona, strange colors in our sky, and seeing stars in the daytime."

What does this mean for Union County? First, this will be a once in a lifetime experience. We want people to enjoy this experience. Second, there will be a large number of people visiting Union County. We want everyone to be prepared for this experience by considering the following:

- 1) Purchase approved viewing glasses to safely view the eclipse.
- 2) Find a safe location for viewing; it can be seen from anywhere.
- 3) Obtain permission from landowners before entering someone else's property.
- 4) Plan early and be aware of the large volume of traffic.
- 5) Be prepared for the heat. These are just a few tips that we hope will make this a safe and memorable experience.

The Emergency Management Agency is preparing for a significant influx of people into Union County that day. We will be providing more information on as we get closer to this event.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief
David Dyer



Laura and the Salesman

My great grandmother, Laura Cummings, was a petite woman. But, Daddy described her as being high strung. For those of you that don't understand that terminology let me explain it with a story.

By the 1920s the road in front of Laura's house was being traveled by 1-2 automobiles per week. The automobiles usually were driven by traveling salesman on their way to Phil Campbell or Russellville. So, the entrepreneur in Laura decided to build a little gas station to take advantage of all the traffic traveling toward town. One day a Fuller brush salesman stopped to sell some brushes. He was low on cash and convinced Laura to loan him a few gallons of gasoline. The salesman promised to pay Laura on his next trip.

That evening, Lon (my great grandfather), came home from working in the logging woods and asked Laura about her day. After which she told him about the traveling salesman.

Lon grinned and told her she would never see her money. Laura clinched her teeth, looked Lon in the eye and said, "I bet I do." Lon shook his head and grinned.

A couple of weeks later Laura got her chance to get her money back. She was in the garden and heard the familiar sound of a car coming down the road. She watched as the car came to her house and sure enough it was the traveling salesman. She was disappointed the car didn't stop. But, she became angry because the man waved and laughed as he drove by the house. Laura looked at my then 7-year-old grandfather (Columbus) and told him to hook up her mare to the family surrey.

Columbus hooked up the wagon to the horse and drove it down to the house. Laura had put on a fresh bonnet and retrieved Lon's long Tom shotgun. Laura and her son left the house and soon were in Phil Campbell. They found the man's car parked in front of Steele's Pool Hall. Laura had never been in a pool hall, but, there is a first time for everything. She got out of the wagon and walked into the door. She promptly told the man she wanted her money.

The salesman laughed at Laura. She turned on her heel walked out of the pool room toward the surrey.

When Papa told me the story he said, "A lot of the people standing around said they felt sorry for Laura because the man was laughing at her. But, I didn't feel sorry for Momma because I knew what was about to happen." Laura went to the surrey and pulled the shotgun from the buck-

Around The Farm
Mickey Cummings



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Mushrooms

With the wet warm summer we've been having, I haven't been able to go a week without some sort of fungus showing up on my desk for identification. They're growing in lawns, on forest floors, in mulch and sometimes even in vehicles! They come in all shapes, sizes and colors, and though they may look big and tasty, it's never recommended to eat a wild mushroom unless you are 100 percent sure of its species. Personally, even then, I don't recommend anyone eat wild mushrooms at all because there are subtle differences between edible and toxic species. As a wise man once said, "All mushrooms are edible. Unfortunately, most of them are only edible once."

If you have mushrooms in your garden or lawn, the first step is to identify what type it is so you know how to appropriately control it. This time of year there are two main fungi found in garden mulch or leaf litter: dog vomit slime mold and artillery fungus. Dog vomit slime mold, or Fuligo septica is a visually striking slime mold that, as its name implies, resembles something pretty unsavory. It ranges in color from bright yellow to beige and is found in rounded, fuzzy, puddle-like patches about an inch or two thick. When this fungus is disturbed, the affected area will become smooth and slimy and change color to a deep rust-orange. The puddle itself will sometimes move about a small area over a period of days as it breaks down decaying wood. Though unsightly, slime molds do not harm plants and often dry up within a few days of forming.

Artillery fungus, or Sphaerobolus, is a group of wood-eating fung that typically inhabit mulch beds. Though most of the time you will notice the actual mushroom before its spores, in this case, most people notice the dark round spore packets, or peridioles, on their vinyl siding, cars or other outdoor surfaces and never even see the fungus itself. These peridioles sit on top of cup-shaped cells that absorb water from the environment. Once the cells have enough water, they explode, shooting spores onto any surrounding surfaces up to six meters high. This fungus is not particularly harmful, but pressure washing or scrubbing with a rough sponge will usually get rid of the peridioles.

Stinkhorns are another common mushroom that can often be found after long periods of wet weather. Just as their name implies, you will most likely smell them before you see the actual mushrooms. Though they are putrid and

From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee



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